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SUBJECT: Argentina: Message from Argentine Foreign Minister to
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 0022 (B) 08 STATE 128098

¶1. Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge E. Taiana sent January 22 a new message of congratulations to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on taking office, following up on the (ref A) letter he sent on her nomination. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Embassy that it sent to Washington the signed original. Excerpts from the letter began appearing in the Argentine media on January 22. Embassy's informal translation of the letter follows in para 2.

¶2. The text of the letter from Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana translates as follows:

Buenos Aires, January 22, 2009

Dear Secretary of State:

I am pleased to reiterate to you my congratulations and best wishes, now as Secretary of State of the United States of America. As I mentioned to you on the occasion of your nomination, I am convinced your competence and experience will provide a significant contribution to the administration of President Obama.

We live in a time of many unknowns, with a global crisis of unprecedented characteristics. In these circumstances, we who share ideals, values, and fundamental goals must try to make of the crisis an opportunity to work together seeking the welfare and sustainable development of our people and of all humanity. I am certain that we will be able to work in tandem to design a new multilateral approach and to build consensus, currently more necessary than ever to establish a new, more just, and equitable international order.

I also visualize this new current situation as a good opportunity to strengthen and broaden the ties between our two countries. I hope we may soon meet to develop a broad agenda encompassing bilateral and global issues.

I take this opportunity to greet you with the assurances of my highest consideration and to reiterate my wishes of success in the performance of your new position.

Jorge Taiana
Minister of Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship

End text of letter.

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